

REMARKS

Claims 14-33 are presently in the application. Claims 1-13 have been canceled.

Claims 14-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Weigl (DE 199 35 920). Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Weigl teaches the use of a heating element 12 for the purpose of preventing the freezing of reducing agent in a tank 10, not for the purpose of stimulating a partial chemical conversion of the auxiliary agent. In fact, Weigl teaches that the temperature of the reducing agent in the tank 10 should be maintained above the freezing temperature, but below a temperature which would be harmful to the reducing agent. To this end, Weigl limits the heating temperature by using a heat exchanger and a thermostatic valve for the cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine that is used to heat the reducing agent. Weigl teaches that once the reducing agent reaches a temperature of about 20° C the thermostatic valve or valves are closed, because no further heating of reducing agent is desired. See, col. 5, ll. 51-54. Thus, the reducing agent in the storage tank 10 is not heated by the heating element 12 to a sufficiently high temperature to stimulate a partial chemical conversion of the reducing agent.

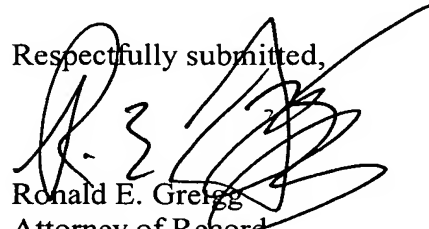
In the rejection, the examiner seems to be of the opinion that the heating element 12 in Weigl would inherently stimulate a partial chemical conversion of the reducing agent, but an actual reading of Weigl shows that this assumption is incorrect. In Weigl, the temperature of the reducing agent is maintained below the temperature necessary to simulate a partial chemical conversion of the reducing agent. Weigl actually leads away from applicant's

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invention. Accordingly, claims 14-33 are not anticipated by or rendered obvious by the teachings of Weigl.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. E. Greigg', is written over the typed name and title.

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